

## Historic, archived document

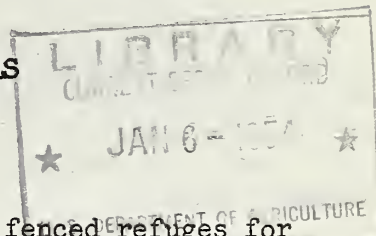
Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## Fish and Wildlife Service

Washington 25, D. C.

Leaflet WL-341  
September 1952AVAILABILITY OF SURPLUS BIG-GAME ANIMALS  
ON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

The Fish and Wildlife Service maintains four fenced refuges for buffalo and elk, where the animals run at large, and are maintained as nearly as possible under natural conditions. An annual disposition of surplus animals is made from these areas to avoid over-grazing. Both live and butchered animals are generally available, and the following information is for the guidance of all persons, organizations, and agencies desirous of procuring animals.

ANNUAL PROGRAM

The Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service determines each year, usually in August, the number of animals that are surplus on each refuge and establishes the prices at which they will be sold. There may be some annual variation, depending on conditions at each refuge, but disposals usually will be made in the numbers indicated below.

AVAILABILITY OF ANIMALS

**NATIONAL BISON RANGE, Montana.** Normally, 75 or more BUFFALO are surplus each year, and disposals are made only during the period from October 1 to December 31. Some ELK, MULE, and WHITE-TAILED DEER are surplus each year, but are available only for disposal to public agencies, and no sales will be made. Disposals are made from November through February.

**WICHITA MOUNTAINS WILDLIFE REFUGE, Oklahoma.** Normally, 85 or more BUFFALO are surplus each year, and disposals are made only during the period from October 15 to November 30. Normally, 35 or more ELK are surplus each year, and disposals are made only during December. The disposal of LONGHORN CATTLE is made only at local public auction.

**FORT NIobrARA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Nebraska.** Normally, 45 or more BUFFALO are surplus each year, and disposals are made only during the period from November 1 to December 15. Five or more ELK are surplus each year, and disposals are made only during December. The disposal of LONGHORN CATTLE is made only at public auction.

**SULLYS HILL NATIONAL GAME PRESERVE, North Dakota.** About 5 BUFFALO are surplus each year, and disposals are made only during the period from November 1 to December 15. About 5 ELK are surplus each year, and disposals are made only during the period from November 1 to December 15.

## ORDERING ANIMALS

All orders must be sent direct to the manager of the refuge from which animals are desired. It is recommended that the applicant submit such order to the nearest refuge to save on transportation costs.

Orders for live animals may be submitted at any time and should specify the number of each kind, sex, and age of animals desired. Applicant should also specify whether he will accept delivery of animals at the refuge or indicate the means by which the animals should be shipped, the shipping point, and the consignee, if any. Delivery will be made during the regular disposal season.

Butchered animals are available in half and whole carcasses, and at the discretion of the Refuge Manager orders for quarter carcasses will be accepted. No orders for meat will be accepted before January 1 preceding the next butchering season. All orders for meat received by managers between January 1 and August 31 will receive the same priority. Orders received after September 1 will be filled only if all meat has not already been allotted. Each order for butchered animals should indicate whether buffalo or elk is desired, the quantity desired, and whether meat will be accepted at the refuge. If meat is not to be accepted at the refuge, the applicant must specify the shipping point, how the meat is to be shipped, and the consignee, if any.

## PRICE SCHEDULES

Prices are established annually in August for the sale of animals at fixed rates under the following schedules and categories. Specific information regarding prices will be furnished to persons requesting such information, after the annual program has been approved by the Director. All prices are f.o.b. at the refuge. In the annual schedules, fixed prices are established for four types of disposition:

Schedule 1 - Live animals captured, crated in individual crates, and delivered to transportation company or to purchaser's truck.

Schedule 2 - Live animals corralled and delivered to purchaser's truck or crate at the capturing corral on the refuge.

Schedule 3 - Animals butchered, dressed, and quartered, and the carcass prepared for shipment and delivered to transportation company or purchaser's truck.

Schedule 4 - Animals butchered, hog-dressed, and delivered to purchaser at refuge slaughterhouse, but removed therefrom and skinned by purchaser (Sullys Hill Game Preserve only).

Prices as set forth in these schedules are further divided between mature (not less than 2 years of age) buffalo and elk, and those under 2 years.



## PAYMENTS

Do not send money with any order. Payment should be made only when the applicant has been notified by the Refuge Manager that delivery of the meat or animals can be made. When notified that meat or animals are on consignment, payment should be sent promptly to the Refuge Manager in the form of Post Office or Express money order, bank draft, or certified check, payable only to the Treasurer of the United States. Cash will not be accepted, and failure of applicant to submit payment in the proper manner may prevent him from receiving meat.

## SHIPPING INFORMATION

Live animals and the meat of butchered animals are usually shipped by express collect, but complications may be encountered in the shipment of crated live animals by express owing to weight limitations of the express companies. The applicant should therefore make inquiry of his local express office concerning shipments of crated live animals. Crated animals cannot be shipped by railroad from the National Bison Range to any point east of Missoula, Montana. Shipping and handling charges must be paid by the recipient of meat or animals. Live animals crated for shipment weigh approximately as follows: Buffalo, 850 to 1,500 pounds each; elk, 600 to 1,200 pounds each.

Information regarding shipping costs may be obtained from local transportation agents. If the purchaser is able to remove animals by truck, transportation costs are considerably lessened. The applicant, when placing an order for a butchered animal, should include definite instructions concerning shipment of the head and hide if they are to be purchased by him. It is usually necessary to ship the meat by express, but the hide, when salted and dried for a few days, may be shipped by freight at a considerable saving in transportation costs.

Purchasers using Refriger-Ex service are advised that the containers furnished by Railway Express Agency, Inc., will hold a maximum of 500 pounds of meat and 100 pounds of dry ice when packed. The purchaser is required to pay the regular express rate on a minimum of 350 pounds plus the cost of the dry ice and the rental of the container. Half a buffalo carcass plus 100 pounds of dry ice will usually approximate the 350 pound minimum.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### LIVE ANIMALS

In the sale of animals, preference will be given to applications for purchasing them alive for propagation or exhibition. Surplus live animals not sold may be obtained by State, county, or municipal zoos, parks, or game preserves desiring such animals for propagation or exhibition, at the cost of capturing, crating, and transporting. The Fish and Wildlife Service has no authority to donate animals to private individuals or to private institutions for commercial purposes. The Service reserves the right to limit the number of animals that may be allotted to any person or

agency. In order to assure that animals shall receive proper care, the Service may require the inspection of applicant's facilities before the allotment of animals. It is desirable that the animals be removed from the refuges as soon as convenient after the sale has been completed, but the Government will allow reasonable latitude in their removal.

#### BUTCHERED ANIMALS - LIMITATIONS

To ensure the widest possible distribution of buffalo and elk meat, the following limitations on sales have been imposed:

Bulk sales to an individual or an organization for resale by quarters, halves, or whole carcasses will not be made.

Stores, butcher shops, hotels, restaurants, public eating places, or other dealers retailing the meat are limited to one animal each.

Service clubs, sportsmen's organizations, church clubs, boards of trade, or other organizations are limited to one animal each.

Individuals are limited to half a carcass.

Further restrictions may be made by the Refuge Manager, depending on the availability of animals at the refuge.

#### PREPARATION AND DELIVERY OF MEAT

Slaughtered animals will be dressed, quartered, and wrapped in muslin, heavy cloth, or burlap to meet the requirements of transportation companies, or will be packed with dry ice in Refriger-Ex containers if such service is used. Not only are hog-dressed animals difficult and more expensive to handle, but the meat when so dressed does not cool as readily as when the carcasses are quartered. Refrigerating facilities are available only at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. When animals are slaughtered on the other refuges, natural temperatures must be relied on during the late fall, winter, and early spring months for the proper cooling of the slaughtered animals and the preparation of the carcasses for shipment. Refrigerator cars are seldom available, but purchasers have availed themselves of Refriger-Ex service by paying the extra rate for such service. When the purchaser desires an animal to be butchered, the determination of the time for slaughtering the animal, within reasonable limits, should be left to the Refuge Manager. Animals will be killed only when the weather is suitable for the proper preparation of the carcass for shipment.

Delivery to the purchaser will be considered complete when delivered either to him at the corral or to the transportation company. After live animals or carcasses of dressed animals are removed from the refuge and are accepted by the railway company or other carrier designated by the purchaser as means of shipment to him, or after acceptance by purchaser at the corral, no liability of any kind shall attach to the Government because of the condition of such animals or carcasses.



## GOVERNMENT NOT LIABLE

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all orders. Any order accepted will be with the understanding that if the Government is unable to make delivery of any or all animals covered by such order, the Government will not be liable for such failure.

In supplying animals for breeding or exhibition, or for meat, every effort will be made to select suitable stock. The Government cannot make any guaranty of quality of breeding stock or meat. All animals offered for disposal will be selected by the Refuge Manager, and in every instance in which animals are slaughtered, the killing will be done by him or by his representative.

## HIDES AND HEADS

Purchasers of butchered and dressed animals under Schedule 3 have priority in the purchase of the hides and heads of such animals. Normally, there are a considerable number of hides and heads available for direct purchase at reasonable prices. The prices, as determined by the Refuge Manager, vary from \$10 to \$50 or more, depending on the size and quality of the hides and heads, and purchase may be made by writing direct to the Refuge Managers. At the National Bison Range, hides and heads of buffalo not sold to the purchasers of the butchered animals are sold by sealed bids, and an announcement of the auction may be had by direct inquiry to the Refuge Manager.

## SPECIFIC INFORMATION BY REFUGES

National Bison Range, Montana - On a good road about 6 miles from Dixon and 50 miles from Missoula, which are on the Northern Pacific Railway. Telephone office, St. Ignatius; telegraph office, Dixon; post office, Moiese, Montana. John E. Schwartz is the Refuge Manager.

Capturing facilities, including plank corrals, sorting pens, and loading chutes, and a slaughterhouse are available. Auto trucks can readily reach the corrals and slaughterhouse. As no through commercial truck lines pass Moiese, this method of transportation is not satisfactory. If purchaser insists on shipment by commercial truck, he must make his own arrangements in advance and supply definite shipping instructions. Shipments of crated animals to points in Eastern United States cannot be made by rail, as satisfactory accommodations are not available.

Buffalo are butchered at the Bison Range during cold weather, generally after December 1, and depending on temperatures. It is the policy to conduct butchering operations to include all animals authorized for disposal during one continuous period rather than to kill individual animals or a few at a time at intervals.

Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, Oklahoma - Excellent motor roads lead into the refuge, which is 26 miles northwest of Lawton, Oklahoma. The Ozark Trail, a transcontinental automobile highway from St. Louis, Missouri, to Amarillo, Texas, intersects the Santa Fe Trail at Cache, Oklahoma, 4 miles south of the refuge boundary. Telegraph office and post office, Cache, Oklahoma. Ernest J. Greenwalt is the Refuge Manager.

Capturing facilities, including plank corrals, and a slaughterhouse are available. Auto trucks can easily reach the corral and the slaughterhouse.

Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, Nebraska - On a good road about 4 miles east of Valentine, Nebraska, which is on the Chicago and North Western Railway. Telegraph office and post office, Valentine, Nebraska. John D. Connors is the Refuge Manager.

Capturing facilities, including plank corrals, sorting pens, a loading chute, and a slaughterhouse are available. Auto trucks can easily reach the corrals and slaughterhouse. Some difficulty may be encountered in shipment of crated live buffalo by express.

Sullys Hill National Game Preserve, North Dakota - On a good road about 16 miles southwesterly from Devils Lake, North Dakota, and about 4 miles westerly from the railway station of Fort Totten on the Great Northern Railway. Post office, Fort Totten, North Dakota; telegraph office, Devils Lake, North Dakota. Wesley D. Parker is the Refuge Manager.

The buffalo usually can be driven or enticed into a small corral in the pasture, where they can be captured and crated for shipment. The elk occasionally can be trapped in the corral, but not regularly so. Auto trucks or teams can reach most parts of the 600-acre pasture.

Additional information will be furnished upon request. Communications should be addressed to the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C., or to the managers of the respective refuges.





